



TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



J. KEITH PINCKARD, MD, PhD
D-ABP, F-ABMDI
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

MEDICAL EXAMINER REPORT

WILLIAM JOHN MILLER II

ME 23-05542

A postmortem examination was performed by J. Keith Pinckard, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Examiner, beginning at 0915 hours on September 16, 2023 at the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office, Austin, Texas.

Other persons present: None.

DECLARATION

The death of WILLIAM JOHN MILLER II was investigated by the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office under the statutory authority of the Travis County Medical Examiner.

I, J. Keith Pinckard, MD, PhD, a board certified anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathologist licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas, do declare that I personally performed or supervised the tasks described in this Medical Examiner Report. It is only after careful consideration of all the data available to me at the time this report was finalized that I attest to the diagnoses and opinions stated herein.

Numerous photographs were obtained along the course of the examination. I have personally reviewed those photographs and attest that they are representative of findings reported in this document.

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 2 of 19


CAUSE OF DEATH STATEMENT

CAUSE OF DEATH

GUNSHOT WOUND OF HEAD

MANNER OF DEATH

SUICIDE



J. KEITH PINCKARD, MD, PHD
Chief Medical Examiner

11-14-2023
Date

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 3 of 19

SUMMARY AND OPINION

According to reports, this 43-year-old man with a history of bipolar disorder and depression was found deceased in the bathtub of his residence with an apparent gunshot wound of the head. Emergency medical services responded and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Multiple letters indicating suicidal intent and instructions for others were found at the scene. A revolver chambered for .410 shotgun shells was found in the decedent's right hand.

Autopsy demonstrated a contact range, perforating gunshot wound of the head. The entrance was on the frontal scalp and the exit was on the occipital scalp. There were extensive associated injuries of the cranium and brain. No projectiles or fragments were recovered.

Postmortem toxicology testing demonstrated the presence of ethanol, cocaine and its metabolites, diphenhydramine, and amphetamine (see separate report).

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 4 of 19

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body length (inches, cm):	69 175.3
Body weight (pounds, kg):	188 85.2
Body mass index (kg/m²):	27.7
Development:	Well-developed
Stature:	Well-nourished
Age:	Appears to be stated age
Anasarca:	Not present
Edema localized:	Not present
Evidence of dehydration:	Not present
Skin:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. See Evidence of Injuries2. Indented round gray area of patterned discoloration on the hypothenar aspect of the right palm (does not wipe away)3. Black discoloration on lateral left index finger and anterior left palm near base of index finger (wipes away)
Scalp hair length:	Medium
Scalp hair color:	Brown and gray
Eyes:	Both eyes present
Irides:	Blue
Corneas:	Translucent
Sclera/bulbar conjunctivae:	White
Palpebral conjunctivae:	Translucent
Facial petechiae:	Not present
Nose:	Normally formed
Ears:	Normally formed
Lips:	Normally formed
Facial hair:	Mustache and beard
Facial hair color:	Brown and gray
Maxillary dentition:	Natural
Mandibular dentition:	Natural
Condition of dentition:	Good
Neck:	Unremarkable
Trachea midline:	Yes

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 5 of 19

Chest development:	Normal
Chest symmetrical:	Yes
Chest diameter:	Appropriate
Abdomen:	Flat
Anus:	Unremarkable
Back:	Unremarkable
Spine:	Unremarkable
External genitalia:	Male
Breast development:	None
Breast masses:	None
Right hand digits complete:	Yes
Left hand digits complete:	Yes
Right foot digits complete:	Yes
Left foot digits complete:	Yes
Extremities:	Well-developed and symmetrical
Muscle group atrophy:	Not present
Senile purpura:	Not present
Pitting edema:	Not present
Tattoos:	None identified
Cosmetic piercing:	Left earlobe
Scars:	None identified
Other:	The hands are observed to be covered with paper bags.

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 6 of 19

POSTMORTEM CHANGES

Body temperature:	Cool subsequent to refrigeration
Rigor mortis:	Fully fixed
Livor mortis – color:	Purple
Livor mortis – fixation:	Fully fixed
Livor mortis – position:	Posterior
State of preservation:	No decomposition
Funerary Preparation(s):	None
Organ/tissue procurement:	None

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 7 of 19

MEDICAL INTERVENTION

Evidence of medical intervention: None

Injuries related to resuscitative attempts: None



MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 8 of 19

EVIDENCE OF INJURIES

The body is described in the Standard Anatomic Position. Reference is to this position only.

GUNSHOT WOUND:

ENTRANCE

Location: centered 6 cm inferior to the top of the head, in the midline

Defect: stellate laceration measuring 18 x 10 cm in greatest dimension; when margins are reapproximated, a roughly round defect becomes apparent, deep to which are fractured pieces of frontal bone exhibiting curved margins and soot deposition

Soot: focally on wound margins, within wound, and on fractured pieces of bone

Stippling: none

Muzzle imprint: none

PATHWAY

Frontal bone, brain (with extensive lacerations), and left occipital bone, to exit occipital scalp

RECOVERY

None

EXIT

Occipital scalp

Location: 12 cm inferior to the top of the head, in the midline

Defect: 3 cm stellate defect; margins easily reapproximate

ASSOCIATED INJURIES

1. Bilateral purple periorbital ecchymosis
2. Laceration at medial aspect of left orbit
3. Focal subgaleal hemorrhage
4. Comminuted fracturing of cranium and base of skull
5. Exit fracture in occipital bone, with smooth inner table, beveled outer table, and fragments of bone directed externally
6. Thin film of subdural hemorrhage
7. Diffuse subarachnoid hemorrhage

TRAJECTORY

Front to back and slightly downward, without significant deviation rightward or leftward

RANGE OF FIRE

Contact

CLOTHING

None involved

Punctate abrasions consistent with stippling are on the posterior thumb and forefinger regions of the left hand.

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 9 of 19

IMAGING/RADIOLOGY

A postmortem computed tomography (CT) scan was performed. Findings of forensic significance include:

1. Comminuted fracturing of cranium
2. Round fracture with external beveling of occipital bone
3. Pneumocephaly and pneumorrhachis
4. Minute radio-opaque fragments within cranial cavity

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 10 of 19

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

BODY CAVITIES

Chest cavities examined:	Yes
Abdominal cavity examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No
Serosal surfaces:	Smooth and glistening
Body cavity adhesions:	None present
Fluid accumulation present:	None present

HEAD

Brain examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	Yes
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No
Brain weight fresh (g):	1120
Reflected scalp and temporalis muscles	See Evidence of Injuries
Facial skeleton:	See Evidence of Injuries
Calvarium:	See Evidence of Injuries
Skull base:	See Evidence of Injuries
Dura mater:	See Evidence of Injuries
Dural venous sinuses:	Patent
Leptomeninges:	Thin and transparent
Epidural hemorrhages/hematomas:	Absent
Subdural hemorrhages/hematomas:	See Evidence of Injuries
Subarachnoid hemorrhages:	See Evidence of Injuries
Cerebral hemispheres:	Cannot be assessed
Gyral and sulcal patterns:	Unremarkable
Gyral convolutions and sulci:	No widening or flattening of gyri and no narrowing of sulci
Uncal processes:	Unremarkable
Cerebellar tonsils:	Unremarkable
Cranial nerves:	Cannot be assessed

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 11 of 19

Basilar arterial vasculature:	Cannot be assessed
Cerebral cortex:	Unremarkable
White matter:	Unremarkable
Corpus Callosum:	Cannot be assessed
Deep gray matter structures:	Unremarkable
Brainstem:	Unremarkable
Cerebellum:	Unremarkable
Other comments:	None

Spinal Cord

Spinal cord examined:	No
Spinal dura:	Not examined
Spinal cord:	Not examined
Other comments:	None

Middle Ears

Middle ears examined:	No
Tympanic membranes:	Not examined
Contents of ear canals:	Not examined
Other comments:	None

NECK

Neck examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No
Subcutaneous soft tissues:	Unremarkable
Strap muscles:	Unremarkable
Jugular veins:	Unremarkable
Carotid arteries:	Unremarkable
Tongue:	Unremarkable
Epiglottis:	Unremarkable
Hyoid bone:	Unremarkable
Larynx:	Unremarkable
Palatine tonsils:	Not examined
Other comments:	None

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 12 of 19

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Heart examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No

Heart

Heart weight fresh (g):	440
Right coronary ostium position:	Normal
Left coronary ostium position:	Normal
Supply of the posterior myocardium:	Right coronary artery
Coronary artery stenosis:	Right coronary ostium ~ <25%
	Right coronary artery ~ <25%
	Left coronary ostium ~ <25%
	Left mainstem coronary artery ~ <25%
	Left anterior descending coronary artery ~ <25%
	Left circumflex coronary artery ~ <25%
Cardiac chambers:	Unremarkable
Tricuspid valve:	Unremarkable
Pulmonic valve:	Unremarkable
Mitral valve:	Unremarkable
Aortic valve:	Unremarkable
Right ventricular myocardium:	No fibrosis, erythema, pathologic infiltration of adipose tissue or areas of accentuated softening or induration
Left ventricular myocardium:	No fibrosis, erythema, or areas of accentuated softening or induration
Atrial septum:	Unremarkable
Ventricular septum:	Unremarkable
Right ventricle free wall thickness (cm):	0.5
Left ventricle free wall thickness (cm):	1.7
Interventricular septal thickness (cm):	1.6
Other comments:	None

MILLER, William John II

ME 23-05542

Page 13 of 19

Aorta

Aorta and major tributaries examined:	Yes
Orifices of the major vascular branches:	Patent
Coarctation:	Not present
Vascular dissection:	Not present
Aneurysm formation:	Not present
Aortic atherosclerosis:	Not present
Other aortic pathology:	Not present
Other comments:	None

Vena Cava

Great vessels examined:	Yes
Vena cava and major tributaries:	Patent

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Lungs examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No

Right lung weight (g):	460
Left lung weight (g):	420

Upper and lower airways:	Unobstructed and the mucosal surfaces are smooth and yellow-tan
Pulmonary parenchyma color:	Dark red-purple
Pulmonary congestion and edema:	Slight amounts of blood and frothy fluid
Carbonaceous pigment:	Not present
Emphysematous changes:	Not present
Pulmonary trunk:	Free of thromboemboli
Pulmonary artery atherosclerosis:	None
Other comments:	None

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 14 of 19

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM

Liver examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No
Liver weight (g):	2280
Bile volume (mL):	5
Hepatic parenchyma (color):	Tan
Hepatic parenchyma (texture):	Unremarkable
Hepatic vasculature:	Unremarkable and free of thrombus
Gallbladder:	Unremarkable
Gallstones:	No
Biliary tree:	Unremarkable
Other comments:	None

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM

Alimentary tract examined:	Yes
See Evidence of Injuries:	No
See Medical Intervention:	No
See Postmortem Changes:	No
Stomach contents volume (mL):	~100
Stomach contents description:	Partially digested food
Appendix:	Unremarkable

Esophagus

Course:	Normal course without fistulae
Mucosa:	Gray-white, smooth and without lesions
Other comments:	None

Stomach

Mucosa:	Autolyzed
Pylorus:	Patent and without muscular hypertrophy
Other comments:	None

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 15 of 19

Small Intestine

Luminal contents: Partially digested food
Mucosa: Duodenal mucosa unremarkable; remaining bowel mucosa not examined
Caliber and continuity: Appropriate caliber without interruption of luminal continuity
Other comments: None

Colon

Luminal contents: Formed stool
Mucosa: Rectal mucosa unremarkable; remaining colonic mucosa not examined
Caliber and continuity: Appropriate caliber without interruption of luminal continuity
Other comments: None

Pancreas

Form: Normal tan, lobulated appearance
Other comments: None

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM

Genitourinary system examined: Yes
See Evidence of Injuries: No
See Medical Intervention: No
See Postmortem Changes: No

Kidneys

Right kidney weight (g): 240
Left kidney weight (g): 240
Kidney capsules: Thin, semitransparent
Cortical surfaces: Smooth
Cortices: Normal thickness and well demarcated from the medullary pyramids
Calyces, pelves, and ureters: Non-dilated and free of stones and masses
Other comments: None

Urinary bladder

Urine volume (mL): ~100
Urine description: Clear yellow

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 16 of 19

Urinary bladder mucosa: Gray-tan and smooth
Other comments: None

Male

Testicle location: Scrotal
Testicle size: Not removed
Testicle consistency: Not removed
Prostate gland size: Unremarkable
Prostate gland consistency: Homogeneous
Other comments: None

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM

Reticuloendothelial system examined: Yes
See Evidence of Injuries: No
See Medical Intervention: No
See Postmortem Changes: No

Spleen

Spleen weight (g): 200
Spleen parenchyma: Moderately firm
Spleen capsule: Intact

Bone Marrow

Color: Red-brown, homogeneous and ample
Other comments: None

Lymph nodes

Regional adenopathy: No adenopathy
Other comments: None

Thymus

Thymus weight (g): Not applicable
Parenchyma: Absent
Other comments: None

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

Endocrine system examined: Yes

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 17 of 19

See Evidence of Injuries: No
See Medical Intervention: No
See Postmortem Changes: No

Pituitary gland

Size: Not examined
Other comments: None

Thyroid gland

Thyroid gland position: Normal
Thyroid gland size: Normal
Thyroid gland parenchyma: Normal
Other comments: None

Adrenal glands

Adrenal gland size: Normal
Adrenal gland parenchyma: Yellow cortices and gray medullae with the expected corticomedullary ratio
Other comments: None

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Musculoskeletal system examined: Yes
See Evidence of Injuries: Yes
See Medical Intervention: No
See Postmortem Changes: No

Bony framework: See Evidence of Injuries
Supporting musculature: Unremarkable
Subcutaneous soft tissues: See Evidence of Injuries

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 18 of 19

MICROSCOPY

None performed

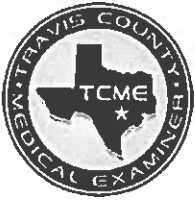
AUTOPSYFILES.ORG

MILLER, William John II
ME 23-05542
Page 19 of 19

PROCEDURAL NOTES

APPROACH TO AUTOPSY DISSECTION

Rokitansky evisceration:	Not performed
Virchow evisceration:	Performed
Modified evisceration:	Not performed
Pericranial membrane removal:	Not performed
Anterior neck dissection:	Not performed
Posterior neck dissection:	Not performed
Facial dissection:	Not performed
Vertebral artery dissection (in situ):	Not performed
Cervical spine removal:	Not performed
Layered anterior trunk dissection:	Not performed
Anterolateral rib arc dissection:	Not performed
Back dissection:	Not performed
Posterior rib arc dissection:	Not performed
Extremity soft tissue dissection:	Not performed
Eye enucleation:	Not performed
Inner middle ear evaluation:	Not performed
Maxilla or mandible resection:	Not performed
Spinal cord removal (anterior):	Not performed
Spinal cord removal (posterior):	Not performed
Other dissection(s):	Not performed



TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

7723 Springdale Rd, Austin, TX 78724

Tel: (512) 854-9599

www.traviscountytx.gov/medical-examiner

J. KEITH PINCKARD, MD, PhD

D-ABP, F-ABMDI

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Toxicology Report

Case #: ME 23-05542

Name: Miller, William John

Pathologist: Dr. J. Keith Pinckard

Date Completed: 10/14/2023

Assay/Specimen	Substance	Result	Units	Method
ETHANOL/VOLATILES				
Blood, femoral	Ethanol	0.08	% w/v	Headspace GC/FID
Vitreous	Ethanol	0.10	% w/v	Headspace GC/FID
IMMUNOASSAY				
Blood, femoral	Cannabinoid	ND		ELISA
STANDARD PANEL				
Blood, femoral	Cocaine	<10	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS
Blood, femoral	Cocaethylene	<20	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS
Blood, femoral	Ecgonine Methyl Ester	<20	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS
Blood, femoral	Benzoyllecgonine	110	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS
Blood, femoral	Diphenhydramine	140	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS
Blood, femoral	Amphetamine	<20	ng/mL	LC/MS/MS

ND = None Detected

UFA = Unsuitable for Analysis

Comment:

All cases, unless otherwise stated, are screened by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for the following compound classes: Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine Metabolite, Fentanyl, Opiates, Oxycodone/Oxymorphone, and Cannabinoid. ELISA is considered a presumptive test. Results are confirmed prior to reporting specific substance(s). Because a presumptive positive result for Cannabinoid is confirmed only in select cases, the ELISA result for Cannabinoid is included on the report for informative purposes, whether confirmed or not.

The Standard Panel consists, at a minimum, of analysis by Liquid Chromatography/Quadrupole Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry (LC/QTOF-MS) for the following compound classes: Amphetamines, Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antihistamines, Antipsychotic Agents, Benzodiazepines, Central Nervous System Stimulants, Cocaine, Hallucinogens, Sedatives, Muscle Relaxants, Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Agents, Opiates, and Opioids. Over 250 substances encompassing primarily over-the-counter, prescription, and illicit substances are screened. Not all known analytes in each specified compound class are included. Some specific analytes outside these classes are also included. The detection of any specific analyte is concentration dependent. Positive results are listed with the corresponding method of confirmation. Depending on the circumstances of the case, not all detected substances are reported.

Chief/Deputy Chief Toxicologist

Medical Examiner